

**New Shoreham Town Council Meeting  
Town Hall, Old Town Road, Block Island  
Wednesday, December 15, 2010  
7:00 p.m.**

**Present:** First Warden Kimberley H. Gaffett, Second Warden Raymond J. Torrey, Town Councilor Peter B. Baute, Town Councilor Kenneth C. Lacoste, Town Councilor Richard P. Martin. Also present was Town Manager Nancy O. Dodge. Town Clerk Fiona Fitzpatrick was present to take the minutes of the meeting.

**Warden's Report:** The Town Council will meet with Interstate Navigation on December 16 at noon to discuss issues of mutual concern, members of the public are encouraged to attend. Coastal Resources Management Council will hand down its decision on Champlin's January 11, 2011. First Warden Gaffett attended a conference on community education relating to offshore wind development in Maine sponsored by the Island Institute where she presented in her capacity as stakeholder of Rhode Island's Ocean SAMP Plan. Dave McGlinchey, of the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, will come to Block Island to make a presentation for people interested in sorting out the science involved with wind energy.

**Public Input:** There was no input from the public.

**Board of License Commissioners**

Public Hearing for Renewal of Outdoor Entertainment License

- Sunset Lounge, Inc. d/b/a Sunset Lounge at the Narragansett Inn

First Warden Gaffett moved to renew the outdoor entertainment license for Sunset Lounge, Inc. d/b/a Sunset Lounge at the Narragansett Inn, in accordance with the Town of New Shoreham ordinances and the applications on file, seconded by Dr. Baute.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin)

Nays: 0

**1. Annual pre-budget consultation with the Block Island School Board**

Ms. Gaffett noted the pre-budget consultation is mandated under state law.

Finance Director Amy Land reported there are no significant Island-wide economic changes, she does not anticipate a significant change in the Town's tax base. Block Island School Superintendent Robert Hicks, School Committee Chair Bill Padien and members Ann Hall and Sean McGarry were present. Mr. Hicks said the School budget will go to the School Committee in January. He said at this time it looks as though the increase in the School's budget will be about one-half of one percent. The biggest budget driver, he said, is salaries and retirement. Dr. Hicks asked whether the School would be sharing the cost of a Facilities Manager if the provision for the position is enacted under the new Charter. Mr. Padien pointed out the School has been funding repairs to capital items by using operating budget reserves. A discussion ensued of a photovoltaic array for the gymnasium roof. Mr. Padien said the project was estimated at \$400,000 in April 2009. He estimated the array would save 56% of the School's annual \$136,000 electric bill. Council will pursue grant funding.

**2. Act on letter from Deborah Hart re: taxi license transfer**

The New Shoreham Commission on Motor Vehicles for Hire sent a memo recommending the transfer of Daniel Hart's taxi license to Deborah Hart. Mrs. Hart is eligible to receive the license as a surviving spouse under the provisions of TNS 8-163(b).

Mr. Lacoste moved to grant the transfer of Daniel Hart's taxi license to Deborah Hart effective immediately and to allow a grace period for Mrs. Hart to pick up the license by June 30, 2011. Motion seconded by Mr. Torrey.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin)

Nays: 0

**3. Receive and act on bicycle and moped safety recommendations**

Present were community members Mark Emmanuelle, Linda Closter, Kay Lewis, and Kate McConville, who met together to discuss tactics to improve bicycle and moped safety. The group presented recommendations to the Town Council, attached to these minutes. Mike

Finnimore was also present. Mr. Lacoste participated in the discussion as the proprietor of a bicycle rental agency. Points of discussion:

- Safety Advisory Committee for Mopeds and Bicycles will not be revived at this time.
- Rules of the Road and standardized map of areas of concern may be printed as a pamphlet; Bruce Montgomery volunteered his services. Could be handed out by Interstate with group tickets, through realtors in rental houses, in Block Island Guide and BI Times, require bike & moped rental agencies to post and hand out
- Residents and the business community should lead by example and wear helmets
- Meeting with NSPD will be scheduled to discuss the role of the bicycle patrol (they may not give ticket for moving violations), helmet laws, spot enforcement, training on Weldon's Way.
- Improve signage with bike stop signs, indicate dirt roads and dangerous areas
- Safety message can be printed on magnetic signs, bumper stickers
- Ask Interstate to add helmet reminder to debarking announcement
- Discussion of milk crate back rests
- Discussion of training: Finnimore said 5 to 10 percent of customers are turned away (big groups, drinkers, pregnant women, people who cannot ride a bike). He said 30% of accidents involve unauthorized operators. Suggestions included attaching the key to the trained operator's wrist.

Ms. Gaffett suggested adopting all the informational suggestions now. Bruce Montgomery, Mike Finnimore and Mark Emmanuelle will work together on a flyer. She suggested meeting with the Chief next month on a host of enforcement issues. She envisions a sit down with bike and moped business owners and the Chief to solve the Weldon's Way issue, improve traffic flow and keep training off the road. The Council should articulate what is expected in operator training when they renew moped licenses.

**4. Act on request of BI Heath Services re: TNS application to amend zoning to create a Medical Center Zone**

A brief discussion of the proposed Medical Center Zone ensued.

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Torrey, to authorize submittal of the zoning amendment application on behalf of the Town.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin)

Nays: 0

**5. Act on Town Manager requests:**

- temporary extension of Transfer Station contract with BIRM

The Town Manager asked for approval of an amendment to Block Island Recycling Management's contract to manage the Transfer Station. The amendment extends terms of the 2007 contract to May 31, 2011 or to whenever a contractor is selected under the 2011 RFP, whichever is sooner.

First Warden Gaffett moved to authorize the Town Manager to sign the amendment with the correct dates, seconded by Second Warden Torrey.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin)

Nays: 0

- CRMC application for maintenance of beach access at Gracies and Dories Cove roads

John Hopf was present. The application is for the regrading or installation of culverts and steps made of timber and filled with waste roadmix or crushed rock from the road crew. Concern from the audience that no steps be installed at Andy's Way or other points where boats are launched, and perhaps an inclined plane for horses, strollers or wheeled vehicles, helpful to fishermen at night at Grace's cove. . The Conservation Commission is working on a design and implementation plan, along with the CRMC application.

Dr. Baute moved to authorize Town Manager to submit the application to CRMC, seconded by Mr. Martin.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin)

Nays: 0

**6. Receive Town Manager update on Old Harbor Dock project**

The Town Manager said the last sheet piling is hung up. She discussed the progress on the Harbormasters shack, which will go to HDC Monday. She reviewed issues with water and sewer lines. Financials will be discussed on Monday, Regan is waiting on a bill from Sprague Farm.

**7. Act on commercial shellfish license renewals**

First Warden Gaffett moved to accept the recommendation of the Shellfish Commission and grant renewed New Shoreham Commercial Shellfish Licenses to Joseph Fallon, Jon Grant, Eric Gustavson, Frederick Howarth, Christopher Littlefield, Doug Michel, Michael Swanson and John Swinton, for license year 2011, pending receipt of licensing fees and proof of a valid Rhode Island multipurpose license or quahog endorsement from the DEM, and to renew the non-resident license for James Nelson. The motion was seconded by Dr. Baute.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin)

Nays: 0

**8. Receive and act on letter from the Shellfish Commission re: shellfish ordinance, vacancy and GSP water quality recommendations**

Discussion ensued. The shellfish ordinance has been scheduled for hearing. Town Council members are aware of the vacancy on the Commission. Discussion of reestablishing the ad hoc pond quality group.

**9. Act on request of Harbors Committee Clerk re: guidance for the Harbor Committee**

Discussion ensued. The First Warden said the Town Council makes policy decisions. Such decisions are implemented by the Town Manager who directs the Harbormaster. The Harbors Committee may initiate recommendations for the Town Council to consider, or the Town Council may ask the Harbors Committee for their contribution on Harbors issues before the Council. The Harbormaster sets up policies and capital improvements which go through the Town Manager to the Town Council. For instance, the Harbormaster is responsible for the Old Harbor Dock Policy and will bring it forward to the Town Manager and Town Council. Ms. Gaffett said she would be in favor of meeting with the Harbors Committee twice a year, perhaps in January before the budget is submitted and in September after the season. She will respond to Harbors Committee.

**10. Discuss and act on CLG grant application for historic preservation**

No further action was needed.

**11. Boards, Committees and Commissions**

- Annual appointments

Ms. Gaffett moved to reappoint Town Officials until December 2011: Alarm Officers Marc Tillson and Donald Thimble, Auctioneer Lewis Gaffett, CRMC Representative Mike Ballard, Corder of Wood Stanton Geer, Fence Viewer Stanley Balles, Field Driver A. Joseph Sprague, Harbormaster Steven Land, Packer of Fish Gary Hall, Sextons John Connell and Michael Shea, Sealer of Weights and Measures Christopher Blane, Tree Warden David Alpers, Bond Counsel Ellen Corneau, Probate Judge Michael Lenihan, Washington County Regional Planning Council representative Raymond J. Torrey. She further moved to reappoint until December 2011, and to serve at the will of the Town Council, Town Solicitors Katherine Merolla, Steven Merolla for prosecutions, Donald J. Packer for land use issues, and to appoint the Town Council to Care of the Cemetery. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torrey.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

Town Manager Dodge announced her intention of appointing William McCombe, Peter Gempp and Vincent Carlone Co-Directors of Emergency Management for one-year terms ending December, 2011; she asked for the Town Council's approval.

Ms. Gaffett moved to approve the Town Manager's appointments for Co-Directors of Emergency Management, seconded by Mr. Martin.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

Ms. Gaffett moved that the Block Island 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee will extinguish after December 31, 2011 and to reappoint Fran Migliaccio, Connie LaRue, Beth Rousseau, Martha Ball, Zena Clark, Pam Gasner and Henry Peterson to serve as full members; to reappoint

William Wilson, Bruce Johnson, Sharon Lehman, Rita Draper, Teri McCombe, and George Dodge to serve as alternate members; and to reappoint Edith Blane, Kari Curtis, Fraser Lang, Betsy Barker and Kathy Szabo to serve as consulting members. Motion seconded by Mr. Torrey.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

Ms. Gaffett moved to reappoint the appointed members of the Block Island Housing Board to two-year terms expiring in December, 2012. Appointed members are: Deborah Howarth (conservation), Cynthia Pappas (real estate), Patricia Murphy (housing advocate) and Gerald Riker (public at large). Motion seconded by Mr. Torrey.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

No action was taken on the Board of Assessment Review.

Ms. Gaffett moved to reappoint Monica Hull Shea to a three-year terms on the Commission on Motor Vehicles for Hire, expiring in December, 2013, seconded by Dr. Baute.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

No action was taken on the Conservation Commission.

Ms. Gaffett moved to reappoint the members of the Deer Task Force for one year. They are: Christopher Blansfield, Christopher Blane, Patricia Doyle, William Wilson, George Mellor, Maggie Komosinski, Paul Deane, Rebecca Ballad and Mary Sue Record. Motion seconded by Peter Baute.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

Ms. Gaffett moved to reappoint the members of the Electric Utility Task Group for one year. The members are: Barbara MacMullen, William Penn, Everett Shorey and Michael Ballard. Motion seconded by Mr. Torrey.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

No action was taken on Harbors Committee appointments.  
No action was taken on the Historic District Commission appointments.  
No action was taken on the Juvenile Hearing Review Board.  
No action was taken on the Island Energy Plan Committee.

Ms. Gaffett moved to reappoint Elisa Hundt to the Library Board of Trustees to terms expiring in December, 2013, seconded by Mr. Lacoste.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

Ms. Gaffett moved to appoint John Warfel to serve out John Cullen's unexpired term (ending in 2012) on the Library Board of Trustees. Motion was seconded by Mr. Torrey.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

Ms. Gaffett noted Mr. Sisto does not wish his term to be renewed but he will serve until replaced.

Mr. Lacoste moved, seconded by Mr. Torrey, to reappoint John Cullen, Bradford Marthens and Edwin Merritt to two-year terms on the New Shoreham Tourism Council, expiring in 2012.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

First Warden Gaffett moved, seconded by Dr. Baute, to reappoint Robert Gilpin to a three-year term on the North Light Commission expiring in 2013.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

No action was taken on the Planning Board.

No action was taken on the Recreation Board.

No action was taken on the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee.

Ms. Gaffett moved to reappoint John Swinton and Joseph Fallon to three year terms on the Shellfish Commission expiring in December 2013. Seconded by Mr. Martin.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

- Establish the Old Harbor Task Force as a Town appointed board

No action was taken at this time.

**12. Act on annual meeting schedule**

Ms. Gaffett moved, seconded by Dr. Baute, to adopt the annual meeting schedule.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

**13. Minutes: November 17, 2010, December 4, 2010, December 6, 2010 (4:00),  
December 6, 2010 (7:00)**

Ms. Gaffett moved to adopt the minutes of November 17, 2010, December 4, 2010, December 6, 2010 (4:00), and December 6, 2010 (7:00) as amended, seconded by Dr. Baute.

At 9:55 a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lacoste and seconded by Dr. Baute.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

Minutes approved February 7, 2011

Fiona Fitzpatrick